FAMILY LIFE

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BEWARE OF "ROMANCE"

A large factor in the present high divorce rate is certainly the prevalence of the state of romantic love, says sociologist James A. Peterson in a new book, *Toward a successful marriage*. This type of love is not only blind but destructive. These romantically stricken young people never take into consideration their past or their future. They do not ask any questions. They do not even take sufficient time, generally, to test out the relationship.

What is this relationship, which another sociologist, Joseph K. Folsom, called cardiac-respiratory love? It is a romantic yearning which is predestined to be fulfilled when one least expects it. Somewhere in the stars or in a nebulous scheme of life it was foreordained that a specific boy and girl would find eternal happiness in each others' arms. The moment is not too far off, because a popular song assures that "Love is just around the corner." It will come when the individuals least expect it and it must come like a bolt of thunder, "a hit over the head." There is a profound experience of sudden elation and devotion. It may take months before the impact of fate is felt, or it may be the product of only a few moments association. How can you be sure that "this is it"? "When young people are asked how they know that they have turned the *right* corner they say quite simply, and with a great deal of faith, "You just know when it happens." What more could you ask?

The results, says Dr. Peterson, can be summarized somewhat as follows:

"First, romance results in such distortions of personality that after marriage the two people can never fulfil the roles that they expect of each other.

"Second, romance so idealizes marriage and even sex that when the day to day experiences of marriage are encountered there must be a disillusionment involved.

"Third, the romantic complex is so short-sighted that the pre-marital relationship is conducted almost entirely on an emotional level and consequently such problems as temperamental or value differences, religious or cultural differences, financial, occupational, or health problems are never considered.

"Fourth, romance develops such a

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false ecstasy that there is implied in courtship a promise of a kind of happiness which could never be maintained during the realities of married life.

"Fifth, romance as such is an escape from the negative aspects of personality to the extent that their repression obscures the real person. Later in marriage these negative factors to marital adjustment are bound to appear, and they do so in far greater detail and far more importantly simply because they were not in evidence earlier.

"Sixth, people engrossed in romance seem to be prohibited from wise planning for the basic needs of the future even to the point of failing to discuss the significant problems of early marriage."

Better education of young people is therefore indispensable to an increase in the number of happy marriages. What should be offered as a substitute for the Romantic Complex? A widespread tendency nowadays is to emphasize the companionship aspect of the relation between two persons. The phrase "friendship growing into love" has been used to differentiate this kind of intermingling of personalities from either the intense type of romantic love or the more passionate sexual drive that is often misrepresented as "love."

"Companionship varies with different families," Dr. Peterson reminds his readers. "The interest that develops with children or over a new house or a new business project or a coming trip can intertwine lives and expectations. A significant aspect of the growth in companionship love is a sensitivity of emotional response. The ability to communicate depends upon one's awareness of the feeling of others. Most individuals who have grown up in large families and who have had a great many emotional experiences quite unconsciously respond to the emotions of another person. But in modern life, where many individuals are the products of a one-or-two-child family, or where they have had a one-sexed parental relationship because of death or divorce, a great many individuals have simply never learned how to discuss anything.

"Companionship love grows on the basis of the expanding ability to be aware of and to respond appropriately to the emotional meaning of the other's gestures and expressions. There is, perhaps, no aspect of marriage that is so elusive as the effort to capture the meaning of companionship. It does not mean simply that two people are together for many hours. It does not mean that they do many things together. It is rather the quality and depth of their basic emotional understanding as they do these things and share these hours that are so vitally important."

Any thoughtful person will derive much help from this book. It discusses successively the preliminaries to marriage, the establishment and expansion of the marriage, the financial and sexual adjustments, and then takes

up infancy and childhood, finishing with a chapter on "The last half of life."

Dr. Peterson is associate professor of sociology and the head of the programs of marriage education and training for marriage counselors at the University of Southern California, one of the few universities that give a Ph.D. in this subject. One of his previous books, *Education for marriage* (1956) is widely used as a college textbook. This one with its sound and practical help will be equally popular, equally valuable.

(TOWARD A SUCCESSFUL MARRIAGE, by James A. Peterson. Pp. 256, price $3.95 from Charles Scribner's Sons, 597 Fifth ave., New York, N.Y., 1960.)

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Notes from the AIFR

GRADUATE CREDIT is now available to participants in the Institute's summer workship in counseling, through an arrangement with the Division of Graduate Studies of Chapman College, a fully-accredited liberal arts college located in Orange, Calif. Henceforth this popular workshop, (given for the 13th time, Aug. 1 through 13 this year) will be a joint offering of the Institute and the College presented at the AIFR office in Los Angeles with the title, "Marriage and family counseling workshop," and will offer two credits as Sociology S 211. Dr. B. J. Oliver, head of the department of sociology at the college, is the graduate credit coordinator, and will handle all details connected with approval of students desiring credit, and the giving of examinations. The workshop can, of course, be taken without credit, as heretofore, by those not working toward graduate degrees.

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Testing for Homosexuality

Measurement of masculinity and femininity has long been unsatisfactory. Most widely known scale is that devised by L. M. Terman et al., and used by him in the study of homosexuality as well as of normal personality. This was followed in the Minnesota Multiphasic Personality Inventory, the M-F scale of which has also been supposed to give some measure of homosexual tendencies, but the assumption that a man with pronounced feminine interests was a homosexual proved to be untenable. There must be other qualities present to make a man a homosexual; moreover, masculinity and femininity were found to be functions, in part, of both age and intelligence. As men grew older they scored more feminine and, more conspicuously, those with higher IQ's tended to give more feminine responses. Among those using the MMPI, James H. Panton, psychologist at the reception center of the Central Prison, Raleigh, N.C., tested all the 566 items in the full form of the MMPI, believing that some of the other traits would be predictive of homosexual behavior, quite apart from the M-F scores. He identified 22 significant items, and lists them with full directions for following his procedure, in the January, 1960, issue of the *Journal of Clinical Psychology*. The use of this selected battery of 22 questions served to identify 81% of the known homosexuals who were committed to prison, 87% of the non-

homosexuals, and 83% of the "superior IQ nonhomosexuals." Many of the traits identifying a male homosexual are in the constellation which the MMPI called Psychopathic Deviate, but which can better be called Sociopath.

Educational Notes

FORTY PRIESTS and a psychologist have been added to the Family Consultation Service of the Chicago Roman Catholic Archdiocese, in an effort to give more help to the "many sick marriages." Albert Cardinal Meyer calls on all couples with marital difficulties to consult their pastor before going to anyone else. If he fails to reconcile the couple he will fill out an extensive questionnaire and recommend action. He may, for instance, refer them to the Family Counseling Service, or in other cases to the Separation Court of the Chancery Office.

UNIVERSITY OF HARTFORD, CONN., will conduct its second Summer Workshop in Family Life Education from June 27 to July 29, 1960, with the cooperation of the American Social Health Association. A limited number of half-tuition scholarships are available for the Workshop, which offers 6 semester hours of graduate or undergraduate credit in Education or Sociology. Inquiries may be sent to Dr. Abraham E. Knepler, Workshop Director, Dr. Irving Starr, Director of the Summer Session, University of Hartford, 315 Hudson St., Hartford, Conn.

JOINT SURVEY SERVICE, started last month, will help states and local communities to study their needs and facilities for help to children and families. Directed by Maurice O. Hunt, former chief of the bureau of child welfare of the Maryland State Department of Public Welfare, it represents the combined activity of four national agencies: the Child Welfare League of America ,Family Service Association of America, National Probation and Parole Association, and National Travelers Aid Association. Among other purposes, the project will attempt to balance the services available in a given community, to ensure adequate financial support for them, and to promote high standards of social case work.

Research Notes

SURVEY of divorce petitions in Los Angeles, Calif., where more than 30,000 marriages are dissolved each year, found that half of the people involved came from broken homes themselves; that 43% of the parties knew each other less than a year prior to marriage, and that in 95% of the divorce cases either the husband or the wife or both never went to church regularly.

CURRENT POPULATION SURVEY of the U.S. Census showed that the fertility rate for Roman Catholic married women of childbearing age in the country as a whole was not significantly higher than that for married Protestant women in the same age group, Paul C. Glick told the annual meeting of the American Sociological Society. The fertility rate for Jewish women of childbearing age who had married was only about three-fourths as large as that for Protestant and Catholic women. The cumulative fertility rates for women 45 years old and over reflect the fertility experience of earlier generations. Baptist women led all the rest. Presbyterians had the lowest rate.

FEMALENESS in human beings is associated with possession of two X-chromosomes, while the male formula is XY. Sometimes, it is found, a girl has three X-chromosomes instead of two—she is a "super-female." What will she be like? Analogy from similar situations in other animals suggests that most such unusual individuals will not survive, but P. A. Jacobs et al. reported last year in the British journal *Lancet* a super-female born in 1924, the youngest of three daughters. Menstruation began at age 14 but was irregular and stopped five years later. She was of average height and weight but exhibited underdeveloped breasts, small vagina, and infantile genitalia.

HIGH GIFTED CHILDREN are good prospects for family life, to judge by the large sample which Lewis M. Terman selected from the California schools and of which he published the first study in 1926 under the title *Genetic studies of genius*. They have been followed carefully ever since, and the latest survey, made by Melita Oden, appeared (as volume V), from the Stanford University Press last year, accounting for 1528 of them. The survey confirms the conclusion of earlier volumes that these gifted persons (all selected as having an IQ of 140 or more) are very normal persons in other ways than intellectual superiority. A larger proportion than usual are married, they marry superior people, their marriages are happier than most, and they have at least an average number of children for people in their income class.

IN BERGAMO, Italy, Mrs. Maria Tassinari recently gave birth to her 20th child. She and her husband have been married for 26 years. Seventeen of the children are living.

STUDY of 100 children with cerebral palsy, and of their families, has yielded considerable evidence that heredity is a factor in "developmental" cases of this disease, says Johanna Blumel of the University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston. She reported to a scientific meeting that there was also a history of mis-carriage in 30% of the families, with as many as five miscarriages in one family.

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Around the World

MEXICO now has a large marriage counseling center, the Association Mexicana Pro-Bienestar de la Familia, Tonala 16-131, Mexico 7, D.F. Opening its doors at the beginning of 1959, it had 16 clients in January but 390 in December. Meanwhile it is building up an active group of volunteer assistants and supporters. Its announced objectives are to give (1) marital consultations, (2) premarital counseling and (3) gynecological service (excluding surgery and maternity), with special attention to cases of sterility.

MOSLEM WOMEN in North Africa have seen a greater improvement in their lot during the past 10 years than during the previous 1,000 years. Tunisia abolished polygamy in 1956, and Morocco has also introduced far-reaching increases in the rights and privleges of women. President Charles de Gaulle signed a decree a year ago banning child marriages in Algeria and granting women new social rights, and making divorce possible only by judicial process instead of the old Moslem provision that the husband could divorce his wife at any time by repeat-

ing three times, before witnesses, the statement "I divorce thee."

HOW DO YOU GET ALONG WITH YOUR NEIGHBORS? This question might be asked interestingly in any country. The Infar-Test Institute of Munich made an inquiry among families from the Eastern (Soviet dominated) part of Germany; found that 77% declared their relations were very good, 13% said "not so happy," and six percent insisted that they were very bad. In this last-named category the main reasons given were personal—the neighbors were unpleasant people, had noisy children, and so on. Only one in every 2 of these dissatisfied families gave any "political" reasons for the unpleasantness, such as the fact that the neighbors were Soviet party functionaries or members of the police and therefore that "we had to be most careful what we said to them."

WHEN MUST A MAN be considered a real bachelor? Age of 25, says the city council of Leighton Buzzard in Hertfordshire, England, which fixed the minimum qualifying age for housing in its new "bachelor apartments."

CANADIAN BIRTHS, deaths and marriages, all declined in the early months of this year as compared with the corresponding months of 1959.

HUSBAND HAS THE RIGHT to open his wife's mail,—but only if he has reasonable grounds to suspect that she is up to something. That is the ruling of the Italian Supreme Court. Arturo Tarchiore of Rome brought suit for legal separation from his wife, on the basis of what he discovered in her correspondence. She claimed this was inadmissible evidence because gained by unconstitutional means. The Italian Constitution states, "The liberty and secrecy of correspondence and of all forms of communications of the Italian citizen are inviolable." True enough, said the court in effect, nevertheless "the husband has the right of vigilance of his wife's correspondence with other persons."

NETHERLANDS requires approval of the parents, in case of a marriage where the spouses are under 30 years of age.

ROMAN CATHOLICS from all parts of Latin America will gather in Mexico City, June 26 to July 1 inclusive this summer, in the second reunion of the Movimiento Familiar Christiano; General theme is "Be an open family," emphasizing the need for families that are open and outgoing in generosity, liberty, and love. First of these international reunions was held in Montevideo, Uruguay, in June, 1957. Details may be had from the Comision Organizadora, M.F.C., Tennyson 209, Mexico 5, D.F., Mexico.

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Inexpensive Pamphlets

MIDDLE AGE — THREAT OR PROMISE? by Harry Milt. Pp. 20, price 25c from Public Affairs Pamphlets (No. 294), 22 E. 38th st., New York 16, N.Y., 1960.

ENGAGEMENT, the Catholic way, by Irving A. DeBlanc. Pp. 29, price 15c from Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, 1312 Massachusetts ave., NW., Washington 5, D.C.

ADOLESCENT PAVILION NUMBER, Journal of the Hillside Hospital, Glen Oaks, N.Y., Pp. 127, price $1.

KNOW YOUR TEMPERAMENT, price 10c from The Queen's Work, 3115 S. Grand blvd., St. Louis 18, Mo.

NEW BOOKS IN BRIEF REVIEW

MARRIAGE AND THE AMERICAN IDEAL, by Floyd M. Martinson. Pp. 491, price $5.50 from Dodd, Mead & Co., 449 Fourth ave., New York 16, N.Y., 1960.

For some time I have been thinking and hearing that we ought to have a concise, up-to-date book on family life which would clearly set forth the value aspects and not get lost in the mass of factual data which every year piles up higher and higher through the indefatigable zeal of our research workers in this field. At the same time we cannot be satisfied by a book which merely develops some one value scheme and selects its material wholly with reference to that. Therefore I was greatly pleased to discover this new book by Floyd M. Martinson, *Marriage and the American Ideal,* which comes closer than anything I have seen to fulfilling these specifications for at least the central core of the family life field: courtship, mate selection, and the marriage relationship. The other sectors of this field: parent-child relations, the physical household, and the relations of family to other institutions, are covered only briefly. Indeed the book's title suggests a marriage course rather than an all-round family course in content. However, the distinction between "functional" and "academic" evaporates, since here we have a book that says the important things which should be basic to either type of course, if such types must be recognized. To set forth his value frame of reference, Martinson postulates three great types, or "marriage models," which can be theoretically constructed, and whose influences can be empirically observed in modern American society. These are: (1) the traditional Judaic-Christian model, in which Martinson sees a continuity and close interrelation of Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant themes; (2) the romantic model arising in the 12th Century A.D.; and (3) the relationship model arising largely out of the 20th Century sociology and psychiatry of family life. These are based, respectively on faith, feeling, and reason. Martinson does not choose among these value-schemes, and he does not ask us to make a choice. He recognizes that actual courtship and marriage will embody a blending of these models. "Values and norms of all three . . . become involved in marriage models within the general framework of the equality, and potentiality for personal development." But all the value differences, and the conflict between reason and unreason, seem to him to resolve themselves ultimately into one possibly irreconcilable conflict: "The conflicting ends of marriage—marriage integration and self-realization—are at the heart of the problem." Yet at the very end he suggests a solution of this value-conflict which involves a skilful feat of attitude formation which may be possible for many. Namely, "In pursuing self-realization, one might choose to commit himself to his beloved, to marriage, and to family. Such commitment may well become the channel for his self-realization, and in no sense constitute an abrogation of his freedom." Statistics and research findings are admirably selected, con-

densed, and interpreted without the many specific source references which make many text-books unwieldy. The text is varied not with detailed tables and graphs, nor needless photographs of familiar situations, but with simplified tables and pertinent cartoons. Martinson is the head of the Department of Sociology and Social Work at Gustavus Adolphus College in Minnesota, is a member of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion as well as of the usual societies embracing his field of workers, and has given TV courses on marriage.—Joseph K. Folsom, Ph.D.

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ADLERIAN FAMILY COUNSELING: A Manual for Counseling Centers, by Dreikurs, R., Corsini, R. J., Lowe, R. N., and Songstegard, M., and others; with a Foreword by P. B. Jacobson. (University of Oregon Press, Eugene, Oregon, 1959, 170 pp., price $2.25.)

The reader will achieve a reward from the study of this book-rich in practical suggestions for work with children and the adults in their environment—if he views it as a manual of methodology. To concentrate unduly (pro or con) upon its narrow Adlerian theoretical precepts would lose for him an opportunity for helpful stimulation for the improvement of his activities in the work-a-day business of child guidance. This by way of asking the non-Adlerian readers to test their maturity by overlooking such enthusiastic comments as that "it is the Adlerian aproach which makes this type of counseling possible" (page IX). It is the reviewer's belief that the methods described in this volume can be carried out under many other theoretical auspices which are based generally upon the approaches of dynamic psychology. The important thing for the reader to do is to recognize that *practically any program in child guidance under wholesome auspices can with profit adapt some of the procedures described in this volume.* Actually many of them, for example, the psychodrama, mother's therapy groups, the guidance conference, the family council, to mention a few, have long been described in the literatures of child guidance clinics in twenty-four counties in California. Gradually, as our case histories indicated, the staff realized that the hopes for the effectiveness of child guidance rested not only in the constructive influences promoted in the individual child and his family but also those developed in the school and the neighborhood, and, indeed, in the geographic area. Were I to be engaged again in the demonstration of child guidance methods, this volume would be valuable in presenting many good suggestions for practical devices in these broader areas of treatment—in treating the child-as-a-whole in the environment as-a-whole. For example, we have long realized that in efforts with troubled adolescents, the values of what the parents do can be greatly magnified sometimes if the reflections of their efforts in the behavior of neighbors are not distorted but mirrored to add support and approval. This text contains many good suggestions for methods of capitalizing upon these extra-familiar resources in child guidance.

The movement toward group methods of family counseling should be greatly advanced were the advantageous experiences described in this volume studied critically and developed

more widely. Underlying whatever is done in child guidance and under Adlerian or other auspices is the need for faith in the basic wholesomeness of human nature, the desire of ordinary people to be helpful toward others, rather than the limitations of a too fervent acceptance of any particular school of psychology. For to one who has observed the conflicts among the different schools of psychology over many years and has accepted some principles or methods from all of them, it seems that psychology would profit greatly if a team of social scientists, selected with maturity as one criterion, were endowed for a period of years to study the writings of all the various schools and to attempt to develop an eclectic contribution. If circumstances were fortunate, the result might be as monumental for us today as was the broadminded contribution of William James sixty years ago.—Norman Fenton, Ph.D.

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AGING IN TODAY'S SOCIETY, ed. by Clark Tibbitts and Wilma Donahue. Pp. 418, price $6 from Prentice-Hall, Englewood Cliffs, N.J., 1960.

There are now in the U.S.A. almost 50 million people over 50 years of age; more than 17 million above the age of 65. Needs of these citizens were considered in two volumes titled *Aging in the Modern World,* published by the Fund for Adult Education, mainly for professional use. This material has been expanded and offered for general reading in the present volume. It consists of selected readings, from Aristotle to the Adult Education Association, each section prefaced by an introduction from some contemporary specialist. Its broad sweep and interest should give it wide circulation.

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PROCEEDINGS OF THE SIXTH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON PLANNED PARENTHOOD, ed. by L. N. Jackson. Pp. 374, paper covers, price $3 (or 21 shillings) from International Planned Parenthood Federation, 69 Eccleston Square, London SW 1, England, 1960.

This conference, held in New Delhi, India, February 14-21, 1959, produced a great amount of valuable material, together with the usual more or less formal speeches; this volume brings together more than a hundred of the contributions. One whole session was devoted to education for family life. This is an indispensable reference work.

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THE PRISONER'S FAMILY: a study of family counseling in an adult correctional system, by Norman Fenton. Pp. 140, price $3.50 from Pacific Books, Box 558, Palo Alto, Calif., 1960.

With a growing recognition of the failure of most correctional institutions to "reform" their inmates, specialists have turned to the search for new and more effective techniques in criminology. This book describes the use of family counseling in connection with the treatment of prisoners in an adult correctional system in California. Norman Fenton, who was responsible for planning and carrying out this policy, with the hearty cooperation and support of the state and local authorities, is a psychologist who has had long experience in dealing with both adult and juvenile delinquents and who made many contributions to the educational program for both classes of delin-

quents. As deputy director in the department of corrections of California, Dr. Fenton had an unusual opportunity to employ techniques that were not part of the traditional "security program" of state prisons, and although he does not make extreme claims for the effectiveness of family counseling, the evidence he offers leaves no doubt that it should be much more widely employed. This report was prepared for the American Correctional Assn., 135 E. 15th st., New York 3, N.Y., primarily for the use of administrators and others in the correctional field, but it offers valuable insights to all students of human nature.

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CHILDREN IN THE CHURCH, by Iris V. Cully. Pp. 204, price $3.75 from the Westminster Press, Witherspoon bldg., Philadelphia 7, Pa., 1960.

Addressing both parents and teachers, Dr. Cully brings the results of modern study of both theology and psychology to bear on an important problem. She is a specialist in the field of religious education and the wife of Rev. Kendig Brubaker Cully, professor of religious education at Seabury-Western Theological Seminary.

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FAMILY MAN, by Eugene S. Geissler. Pp. 157 (no index), price $3.50 from Fides, Notre Dame, Indiana, 1960.

Mr. Geissler, sixth in a family of eight, is himself the father of 12 children, and has already produced a book along similar lines, *Father of the Family,* as well as four others. This little volume consists of impressions and reflections of a husband and father "in a gradual and almost imperceptible progress toward the living out of his vocation."

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CASEWORK PAPERS, 1959, Pp. 143 (paper covers, no index), price $2.50 from Family Service Assn. of America, 215 Park ave. South, New York 3, N.Y., 1960.

Twelve addresses from the National Conference on Social Welfare. Among other interesting and important contributions, Norman W. Paget tells of an experiment in "assertive approach by mail" to couples who are involved in divorce proceedings. When a parent filed for divorce, the Family Service in San Bernardino Calif., telephoned the attorney and asked for the address; three-fourths of the attorneys proved to be cooperative. The Agency then wrote to the parents offering its services, with a total of 477 letters, to which there were 87 responses (18%.) A total of 48 cases, or 10% of the initial mailing, resulted. No definite conclusions are drawn as to "success" of counseling; the Agency tried to aid in any way that it could. It feels that the experiment has demonstrated great possibilities of usefulness by such a direct approach. Readers interested in strengthening family life will hope that it will not merely be continued, but duplicated in hundreds of other communities.

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FAMILY MEALS AND HOSPITALITY, by Dora S. Lewis, Gladys Citek Peckham, and Helen Stone Hovey. Pp. 532, price $4.60 from the Macmillan Co., 60 Fifth ave., New York 11, N.Y., 1960.—Revised edition of a popular high school home economics text first published in 1951. It would be helpful to innumerable home-makers as well as students.

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